India despite its obligations, including under the WTO, and has cited extraneous political, economic and other reasons for this. Pakistan maintains a positive list of importable items from India which currently consists of 773 items.

The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) has come into force from 1st January, 2006 and its phased Tariff Liberalization Programme from 1st July, 2006 (Nepal from 1st August, 2006). Under Article 7 of the SAFTA, this TLP would cover all tariff lines except those in the Sensitive List of each member State. India has issued notification for tariff concessions for the first phase of SAFTA TLP with effect from 1.7.2006. Pakistan has also issued notification but with a rider that imports from India would continue to be as per their positive list of importable items from India.

(b) and (c) Government of Pakistan has not communicated any preconditions for grant of MFN status to India.

Revival of closed plantations in Kerala

2747. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any proposal for revivial of the closed plantations, if so, the details, thereof and the response of the Central Government thereto;

(b) whether Government are aware that Managements of some of these closed plantations are selling the movable properties, cutting of trees and selling the same; and even demolishing buildings and selling them, while they do nothing to revive the plantations nor help the starving workers; and

(c) whether Government would consider proposal of the Trade Unions expressing their willingness to take over and run plantations, provided Government extend support to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No specific proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala.

(b) Certain reports have been received in this regard.

(c) Some proposals have been received.